

# Bro. Walsh competent for trial

Ex-Mooney educator allegedly kidnapped 2 boys at gunpoint

By Todd Lighty  
Democrat and Chronicle

A City Court judge ruled yesterday that Brother John D. Walsh, a former assistant principal at Cardinal Mooney High School, was competent to stand trial on charges that he kidnapped two boys at gunpoint.

City police arrested Walsh, a member of the Brothers of Holy Cross, on Aug. 28 and charged him with second-degree kidnapping in connection with the abduction of two boys, ages 11 and 12. He pleaded innocent to the charge and was released after posting \$7,500 bail.

Walsh did not appear in City Court yesterday for Judge Gary E. Smith's ruling. Walsh's lawyer, G. Thomas White, said Walsh was outside Monroe County but would not disclose his exact whereabouts.

White said Smith gave Walsh permission to leave the county, and the 43-year-old brother was continually being monitored by physicians and psychiatrists.

"I spoke with him (Tuesday). He's certainly not happy with the charges — nobody would be," White said. "But his spirits did seem high."

The lawyer would not comment about the charges, saying, "It's up to the grand jury now to decide what, if any, crime took place."

Assistant District Attorney Terrence Servis, who is prosecuting the case, said it had not been scheduled for presentation to a grand jury.

Police arrested Walsh after two boys reported they were abducted Aug. 24 near Manhattan Square Park. When one of the boys started to run away, Walsh grabbed the other boy and threatened to shoot him if his companion did not stop, police said. It was not known if the gun was loaded.

One of the boys reportedly memorized the car's license plate number and later gave it to police, who traced it to Walsh's car.

In statements to police investigators, the boys said that the man who abducted them asked them to get him drugs. The boys said the man also offered them

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Police investigators said Walsh gave a statement in which he admitted driving the boys around the county and said that a conversation about sex had occurred.

After his arrest, Walsh was hospitalized in Albany and underwent physical and mental examinations. White said he is awaiting doctors' reports on Walsh's physical condition.

White said Walsh was later transferred from Albany to an undisclosed location.

The Rev. George Norton, a spokesman for the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, said a new vice principal, Sister Katherine Wahl, was scheduled to replace Walsh at Cardinal Mooney before the brother's arrest. Cardinal Mooney also started the current school year with a new principal, Brother Edward Boyer, Norton said. Boyer replaced Brother Francis Ellis.

Walsh worked at Cardinal Mooney High School in Greece for a total of 13 years. He was vice principal, disciplinarian and chief fund-raiser for the school, which has about 1,305 students. He also taught mathematics.

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